# Lola’s Elasto Guide

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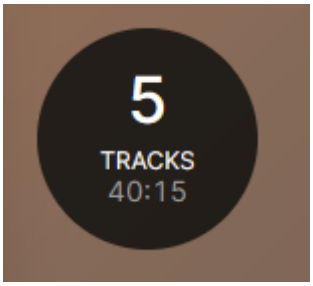



Hey y’all! I’ve put a bunch of time into preparing information for my videos about reusable masks, or elastomerics. Unfortunately right now, between my pressing need for a phone with more space in order to make more videos (I don’t have enough space on my phone to complete this series, after many hours of deleting everything extraneous that I could) and my current precarious housing + work situation, I don't really have the ability to create and share this information in a way that meets my own standards!

However, things are getting WILD out there and I have no desire to sit on this info like a dragon on my trove of PPE knowledge, so I am sharing my scripts with you! Hopefully at some point in the not too distant future, I will be creating the proper videos, finishing up on masks, and moving on to making more accessible vids about all aspects of the pandemicine h*ll that we live in.

Thanks for sticking with me! And as always, if you know anyone who would want to hire me for remote work or have any job tips, please shoot me a message.

## Intro Video

- What are these???
- These are reusable masks, or elastomeric respirators.
  - "Elastomeric" refers to the squishy flexible part that seals against your face, which is usually made of silicone, or sometimes TPE. Masks like these have replaceable filters that you change out, instead of tossing the whole mask.
- Why do people use these, instead of disposable respirators?
  - That mostly comes down to improved seal, improved cost effectiveness, and reduced waste.
- The seal is *generally* improved with an elastomeric, because the flexible gasket is in firm contact with a decent surface area of your face, and this flexible gasket maintains a good seal even as your face moves
- These masks are also more cost effective, because even though the initial investment is higher, you are not changing the filter every time you use the mask.
  - Some masks have a filter that costs a bit more than a dollar, and might last you a few weeks of wear, and others have filters that cost $15 and might last you six months or a year of wear,

        - both of which, obviously, are cheaper over time than the majority of high quality disposable respirators.
    - But, all elastomerics are NOT the same, and the cost effectiveness, the reliability of the seal, and the aesthetics can vary greatly.
    - Elastomerics also vary in their size
        - Full face, half face, quarter face
    - The level of filtration efficiency
        - P100/P3
        - N95
        - Or some weird third thing that isn't properly rated to any standard
    - And whether they have "source control"
        - Which means, is the air YOU breathe out filtered, or unfiltered?
    - Broadly, these masks come in two categories, which I'm calling
        - trade elastomerics (waves hands)
        - and boutique elastomerics. (waves hands)
    - There are also bullsh*t elastomerics like the Jell* M mask, don't buy this, we'll talk about it more later.
- 
    - In the next videos, we'll talk more specifically about pros and cons of each group of elastomerics (altho there are a few that defy easy categorization), what I know specifically about some popular models, and which ones are the most recommended.
    - 

## All About Trade Elastomerics

- Trade elastomeric respirators are the reusable masks that were originally intended to protect people working in trades like welding.
- These come in full face and half face models. Full face includes eye protection, but today we're just talking about half face models that go from the bridge of the nose to under the chin.
- In this video about trade elastomerics I'm going to cover
    i. How well they seal
    ii. Filter efficiency and types
    iii. Ease of breathing and comfort
    iv. Source control
    v. How well people can hear you
    vi. Price and cost effectiveness
- So I mentioned in the last video that people like elastomerics for the improved seal, and trade elastomerics are on the higher end of the seal spectrum. Most people are able to get incredible fit factors in one of the most popular trade elastomerics, and by incredible, I mean significantly higher than what's possible with disposables, like in the 600s or the 1000s.
    i. There is a good chance that one of the easier to find trade elastomerics, in the size that's right for you, will be an amazing fit.
- "BUT what kind of filter do I put in it?"
- So there are SO MANY TYPES of filter cartridges that you can put in most of these guys. *[I'm gonna talk about these from a US and Euro standard perspective bc that's where most of y'all are.]*

    i. While some cartridges are available for trade elastos that filter at an N95 or P2 level, most filter at a higher level like
        - US P100s that filter 99.9% of particles at .3 microns or
        - Euro P3s that filter 99.95 percent of particles at .3 microns
    ii. (INTERRUPTING PERSON)- hold on, why is the higher level in the US called P100 and not N100
- Good question- P refers to whether the material is rated to filter oil-based aerosols
    i. "N" means "nnno this mask doesn't filter oil" and "P" means "pyes" this mask filters oil.
    ii. This is an international naming convention, so FF**P**2s, the so-called "European equivalent of n95s", filter oil-based aerosols, while **N**95s do not.
    iii. Don't worry, Respiratory aerosols that carry COVID are water-based so an N has you covered for COVID, but if you're curious, an example of oil-based aerosols that you might need to avoid on the job are certain insecticides or paints,
    iv. n100s masks and filter cartridges, that filter 99.9 percent of particles but not OIL-based ones, do exist, they're just not common– when you get to the 100 level you might as well be filtering out oil.
- OR a number of other things, because when it comes to these masks you can get special cartridges that filter out ammonia, or acids, or organic vapors.
    i. Organic vapor cartridges are good to have handy if wildfires or tear gas are an issue in your life.
    ii. There are also nuisance odor cartridges that help block stinky smells with activated charcoal.
- Isn't it hard to breathe in?
- Actually, no! If any of you have ever tried DISPOSABLE N100 or P3 respirators, you might be worried that one of these with an equivalent filter cartridge might be difficult to breathe in but that is RARELY THE CASE
    i. this p100 filter material? Has a higher filtration efficiency than this n95, but there is so much material folded up in these cartridges
    ii. if I spread it out, the surface area would be huge
    iii. The more surface area there is to breathe through, the lower the breathing resistance, and the easier it is to breathe.
    iv. When I first put on one of these, I was shocked by how comfortable it was to breathe in. Even though these LOOK extreme, I can guarantee you that they are, in my experience, EASIER to breathe In than any disposable mask.
- Another aspect that can make trade elastomerics easier to breathe in, is that most of them have exhalation valves, this means that, even though the air you breathe **in** is filtered, the air that you breathe out is NOT.
    i. So, this mask does not have "source control"
    ii. This means there's no resistance at all when you breathe out, and moisture doesn't build up on the inside like it does in a completely closed mask, which can be comfier for long wear.
    iii. There are obviously ethical implications here, to using a mask that doesn't filter your own breath in an airborne pandemic
        - Although to be clear, studies have shown that masks with exhale valves still filter your breath as well as a surgical mask does, while protecting the user much more than a surgical.
        - Still, some people think it's wrong to use a mask with an exhale valve. I don't, especially if you're living the pandemic hermit lifestyle

and are pretty confident you don't have COVID, and if you would like me to speak on that more specifically in another video I can.
        - Another concern that some people have with exhalation valves is that they don't trust them to work, like they worry that unfiltered air is getting in thru the valve. I do trust them, and if you want me to elaborate on that let me know!
    - "But LOLA, can anyone understand a thing you say in of those?"
        i. (in mask)The answer is, that depends.
        ii. Overall, I will say that a mask like this does muffle your voice.
        iii. There are some models that come with something called a "speaking diaphragm", which is a little rubber membrane that vibrates with your voice and makes you easier to hear. Those help a lot!
        iv. But generally, if you are quiet, you might have trouble being heard.
        v. I definitely have to project my voice in this mask, which is not a problem for me, but it's not easy for everyone.
    - "What about the cash? Is it big money or small money"
        i. So, basically all elastomerics are more cost effective than disposables
        ii. Trade elastomerics are especially on the more affordable end.
        iii. The big savings here are from how infrequently you need to replace the filters
            - For example, these filter cartridges can last up to a YEAR and should cost less than 15 bux. The amount of time they last obviously varies– if you have wildfires or heavy pollution where you live they might need to be changed sooner. You know they need to be changed when they get difficult to breathe in
        iv. Popular mass market models like my GVS elipse or budget models from 3M usually run around 35 Bucks USD including filters.
    - OKAY BUT which ONE SHOULD I BUY??
        i. WE don't have enough time, we'll talk about that next!

## Trade Elastomeric Recs & Reviews

**BUT W**HICH TRADE ELASTOMERIC SHOULD I BUY?

- So I cannot guarantee that one of these will fit you perfectly, but my top recs, which do well for a lot of people, and are not super difficult to find
    - The GVS Elipse obviously. I use this. This comes in two sizes, and there IS a version available with source control.

    - 
        - You can also see this sold in the US as the "half mask respirator" from Miller Welding, it's exactly the same mask by GVS with different branding.
        - I will say that on wider faces like mine, this mask can be a bit narrow, and if you have a wide face and are really sensitive to sensations it might not be the best option.

- From 3M, in ascending price order, you could try the 6000 series (budget option), 7500 series, or the Secure Click. All of these come in three sizes (S, M, L)
  - The 6000 series has an optional attachment for source control, so if you want to filter your breath now or in the future that's a good option. This is THE cheapest widely available half-mask

  - The 7500 is apparently a comfort upgrade from the 6000 series, there's no source control available tho

  - The secure click is the most expensive, but it has a speaking diaphragm and a neat button that helps you check the seal.

- If you are buying a 3M mask, please purchase a legit 3M branded one and NOT A KNOCKOFF! Amazon is full of knockoff copies of 3M respirators that look the same but DO NOT HAVE THE SAME PERFORMANCE.
- There's also some well-loved Honeywells, like the
  - Honeywell 7700, which is apparently quite comfortable and a good look for the goths, come in three sizes and is in between 3M 6000 and 7500 series in price.

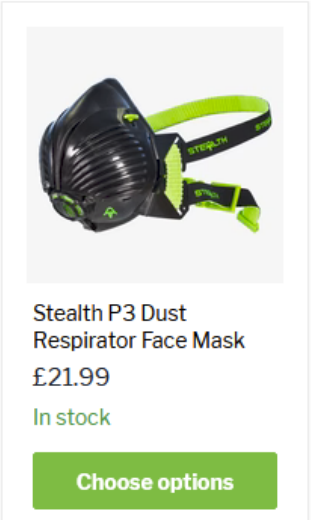
- There's also the RU8500, which has a speaking diaphragm, and comes in three sizes, it's the most expensive of all of these, though.

- And as for choosing a 3M vs the elipse vs Honeywell? At the end of the day, If you want to be able to use any possible flavor of filter cartridge, and you want to be as sure as possible that you will be able to find replacement cartridges anywhere in the world in the future, I would go with a 3M mask.
  - Honeywell also has lots of cartridge options, but it's a bit less accessible than 3M
  - And if you think it looks cool, like I do, then the Elipse is a good choice, although it has fewer options than the others.
- Those are my confident trade elastomeric recs. Now, a special mention is the

    - MSA Advantage 900- this is intended for healthcare settings, it has source control AND a speaking diaphragm, if you need both of those, this is a good option, three sizes, kinda expensive though.

    -
- Now for the ??? Category
    - JSP Force 8- this is for the lads in the UK, I don't have any data on this but it's inexpensive and some UK followers like it, worth a try if you're there, 3 sizes

        -
    - Still in the UK, there is a whole company making affordable and intriguing-looking respirators called Stealth. These all come in two sizes and they've got quite a range. I have NO IDEA how these hold up, I've seen like two reviews with no fit testing data and one unfavorable comment from a fit testing guy, I don't know (batman noise) try 'em if you want

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    - Also, a number of other manufacturers who are also in the disposable mask game make elastomerics as well, like Moldex and Draeger. *shrugs, gestures* these are not as widespread as the 3Ms so I just don't know, could be worth a try
- And in the *shakes hand to show medium quality and shrugs* category
    - There's something called the Airboss 100, which is from a new company. This is intended for medical settings and has source control.
    - A lot of people were really excited about these, but the opinions from the mask freak community have been pretty low: weird sizing, low fit factors for an elastomeric, they're expensive and no returns, I wouldn't recommend trying this over anything else I mentioned.
    - (let's be real this is photoshopped on her)
- If you're wondering where to get any of these, most of them can be purchased on amazon. Amazon sucks, but it's often the most convenient option for people with limited resources.
    - In the US, Lowe's and Home depot will often carry 3M elastomerics but they usually don't have the small sizes.
    - Construction supply companies also sell all of the GVS and 3M stuff. I got my Elipse when I was still in the US from a local construction retailer, and when I wanted to buy a case for it, that came from some random construction supply website in Wisconsin.
    - So seriously, do some googling, there is very possibly a local or localish retailer that you can go to in person or order from.
    -
- If you are outside the US, I recommend checking out the wiki from the Masks4All reddit, they have a great list of trustworthy retailers in a number of countries,
    - And if you want to dive deeper into trade elastomerics, I really recommend reaching out to this community on Reddit, because they are nice and helpful and know a lot!

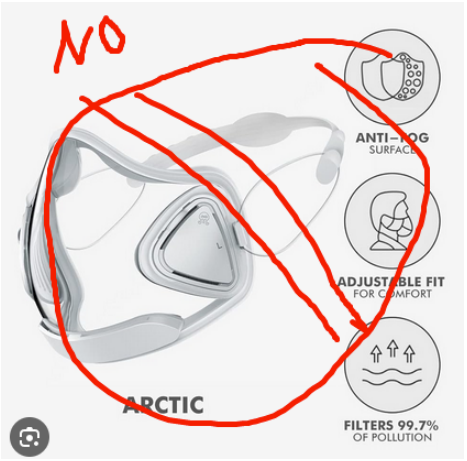
## All About Boutique Elastomerics

    - Whew, that was a lot of info about trade elastomerics.
    - But Lola, those are ugly, I wanna wear something sleeker.

- Jeez okay, that's fine because there's also a whole family of "boutique" elastomerics.
- These are generally made by newer, smaller companies that have cropped up in the last few years (almost exclusively in the US), recognizing a demand for better functioning, more sustainable alternatives to disposable masks, which also look less 'extreme' than traditional elastomerics. Some are half-face masks that go from the bridge of the nose to under the chin, and others are quarter-face masks, which go from the nose bridge to under the bottom lip.
- And boy are these guys a motley crew of very different things,
    - It's harder to generalize this group, but I will say that
        1. Compared to trade elastomerics, the seals on boutique elastos are less reliable and "your mileage may vary", is the name of the game here,
            - What fits one person perfectly might be totally useless for another face.
            - And generally when these do fit well, they still don't score fit factors as high as a well-fitting trade elastomeric.
        2. Most boutique elastomerics use filter sheets rather than cartridges. Some of these filter sheets are officially rated as n95, some claim to perform at an n95 or N100 level without officially being rated to these standards, all with different degrees of trustworthiness.
        3. Nearly all boutique elastos have source control, which means that your breath is filtered, and that moisture will build up on the inside pretty quickly as a result.
        4. Generally, it is easier to understand someone's speech in a boutique elastomeric than a trade one.
        5. AND, as far as *cash symbol with hands* goes, boutique elastomerics are mostly more expensive than trade elastomerics: the initial investment is higher and filter sheets do not last as long as filter cartridges because there's less material.
- A boutique elastomeric is typically a riskier investment than a trade one, because they are often more expensive and returns are usually not possible.
    - These are made by smaller, newer companies, and there is a chance that the company may go out of business in the coming years, which is a good risk to anticipate when you're thinking of what to buy, depending on how limited your resources for buying endless new masks to try are.
- But I generally want to say that, if you are hoping for any one boutique elastomeric to be the perfect fit for you, to solve your mask problems, and you're saving up money and hope to purchase this dream mask, I would try to manage your expectations and be careful with your resources, because even the best of these are really hit or miss, and while lots of people love their boutique elastomerics, I have also talked to a lot of disappointed folks.
- I don't think it's at all impossible to design an attractive, cost-effective, everyday-use elastomeric that comes in a few sizes or variations and fits most people in one of those varieties.
    - However, I would say, that perfect boutique elastomeric does not currently exist, because we live under capitalism.
    - It is relatively easier to find an affordable trade elastomeric that works for you, because tons of people in tons of industries have needed to use those at work for MANY YEARS, and 3M is mega corporation with a million

customers, and they can afford to sink tons of money into R&D, and produce goods relatively cheaply because of economies of scale.
    - On the other hand, the demand for "subtler"-looking everyday elastomerics is much newer, and limited to a much smaller market of largely marginalized individual consumers.
    - Basically, because it's not profitable enough to make and sell us super high-quality, ultra-engineered, sexy, affordable everyday masks, high-risk people are stuck shelling out huge amounts of their limited resources in this trial and error process of testing new reusable and disposable masks.
        - And I just wanted to recognize that all of this constitutes part of the hidden tax that disabled people have to pay to exist, or exist safely, in a world that does not intend to accommodate us. And we need a better world, like yesterday, and I'm grateful for everyone who is a part of that struggle in any way.
    - Okay, I got a bit off topic, but in the next video I will talk about specific models of boutique elastomerics; I'm also doing a full review of the flo mask because I have one.
    - I'm also gonna talk soon about some of the cool mutual aid groups giving PPE to the people, because they are part of the struggle for a better world and I love them.

## Boutique Elastomeric Recs & Reviews

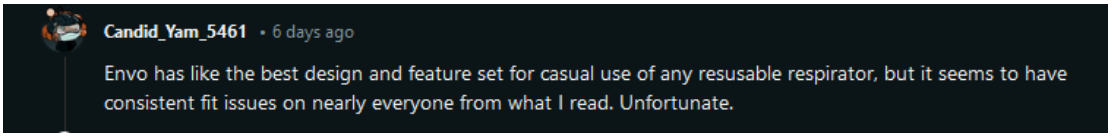
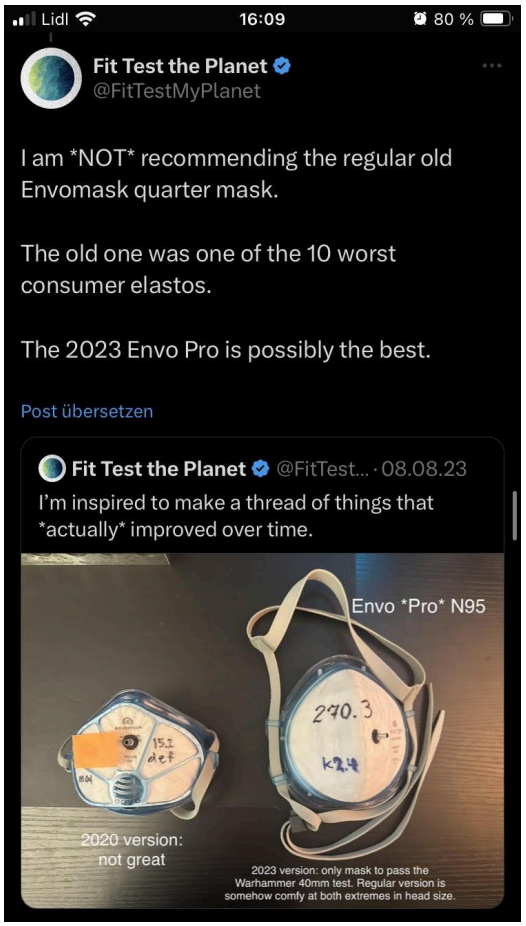
- Hi! We just discussed boutique elastomerics *generally*, and now I'll tell you what I know and think about some models. These are all pretty different, so there's a lot of info to share!.
    - Jelli-M Mask
        - This is a scam! Don't buy it! We'll talk about it more later.
        - 

    - OmniMask-
        - Another clear mask, not as sketchy as jelli but still sketchy, also extremely expensive, I wouldn't buy this.

-

- Okay, now, moving into the products that deserve more careful consideration
- This is the original…
- Envo mask.
    - Envo is a quarter face respirator, which means, it goes from the bridge of the nose to under the lip, and it's filter sheets are approved as a reusable N95 by NIOSH, which is lovely, we know the filters are the real deal.
        - It comes in one size for 49 bucks with two options for headgear + and it has a variety with source control or with an exhalation valve.
        -
    - ENVO is manufactured by Sleepnet Corp, which is a company that was already in the sleep apnea mask business before they got into respirators. They only sell their products in the US, Canada, and US colonies. Sleepnet recently released a sister for the OG Envo…
    - The Envo Pro! It's a half-face respirator, meaning that it goes from the nose bridge to under the chin. It costs 69 dollars and comes in two sizes, regular and extra large. It has an n95 option with source control and an n99 option with an exhale valve, and it looks like a turtle shell.
        -
        - The OG Envo comes with five filters and the Pro comes with three, depending on your usage frequency and conditions I'd guess that you can

probably get away with changing the filters once a week to once a month. The filters run two to three bucks depending on the model.

- And what do I know about how these guys work?
  - While I don't personally have either, as far as the OG Envo goes, based on what I've read, I think this recent comment on reddit kinds of sums it up
  - 
Candid_Yam_5461 • 6 days ago
Envo has like the best design and feature set for casual use of any resusable respirator, but it seems to have consistent fit issues on nearly everyone from what I read. Unfortunate.
  - OG Envo is well-made and there's some very thoughtful design, but it doesn't fit many people very well. If you've got endless funds, sure try it, but otherwise *shakes hands in ehhhh motion and shrugs*
  - The newer, more expensive Envo pro, on the other hand, has received much more favorable reviews. A well-known fit tester who hated the original loved the pro, and there are lots of kind words on reddit.
  - 
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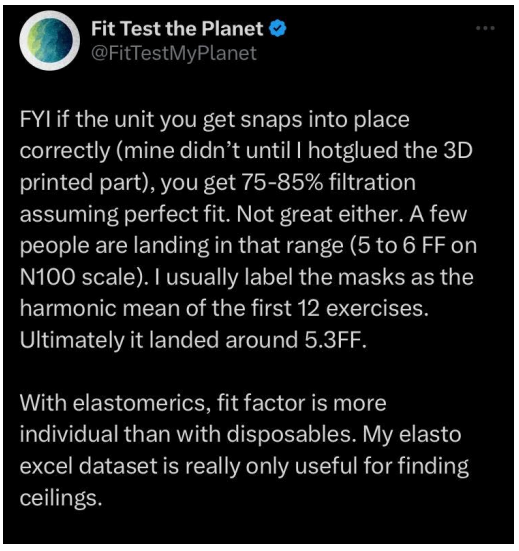
80 %
Fit Test the Planet
@FitTestMyPlanet
I am *NOT* recommending the regular old Envomask quarter mask.
The old one was one of the 10 worst consumer elastos.
The 2023 Envo Pro is possibly the best.
Post übersetzen
Fit Test the Planet @FitTest... · 08.08.23
I'm inspired to make a thread of things that *actually* improved over time.
Envo *Pro* N95
2020 version: not great
2023 version: only mask to pass the Warhammer 40mm test. Regular version is somehow comfy at both extremes in head size.
  - HOWEVER, this is probably not gonna work for small or short faces.
    - I know personally there's no way in hell it would fit me, as I have a very short face.
    - So, if the price is appealing to you and you don't have a small face, the Envo pro could be worth a shot.
- This is a…
- Flo Mask
  - She is kinda the ***golden boutique respirator***, and currently costs 90 US dollars or 85 euros and comes with 10 filters.

-

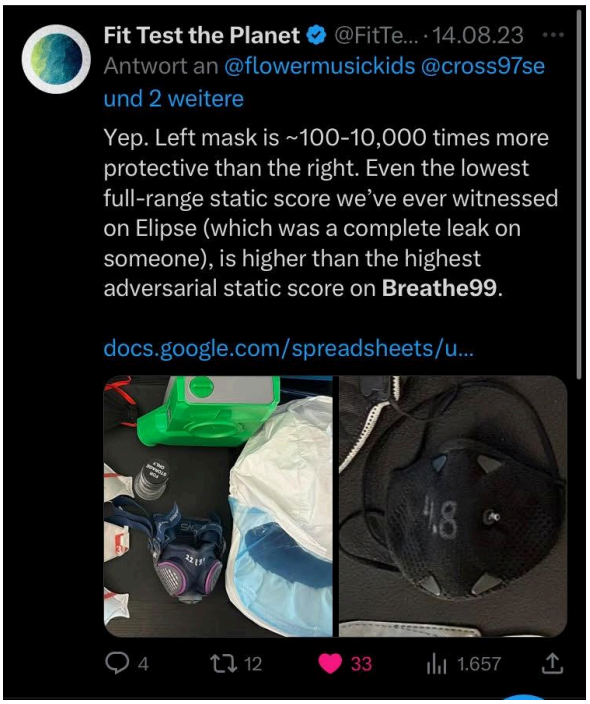
    - Flo is a quarter mask, like the OG Envo.
    - I'm not gonna get too deep into the details because I will do a whole Flo review that includes other people's opinions as well my own, because I have one! But overall I will say that
        - I think Flo is a trustworthy company, in that their filter sheets, which come in two filtration levels, are the real deal despite not having an official n95 or n99 rating.
        - However, I think the claim that these fit 90+% of adults is an exaggeration, and although I did use mine regularly for a time, I don't use it super often anymore and I don't think it's the greatest fit on me personally.
        - I'm also disappointed in the functionality of a few features considering the high price. Some people love their Flos, I do not love it for me, and it's a big investment for something you don't love.
    - For my longer review, I did a Flo owner survey with 38 responses, and about 75% of the people that responded **would** recommend purchasing a Flo to a friend, although only a third of respondents actually use the Flo as their main everyday mask.
    - More about Flo thoughts and experiences coming in that review soon!
- [PrescientX Breathe Masks]
- Moving on, PrescientX is a Canadian company that makes two different elastomerics, which are NOT available for purchase in the United States, and my research on these has possibly left me with more questions than answers.
    - So the original Breathe is $49 CAD (~$36 USD) and comes in three sizes and several colors, with included headstraps and earloops. It has source control.

-
- The Breathe 2 is $79 CAD (~$58 USD) and has all of the same features as the OG breathe, but it has a different look and an increased filter area.
-
- The Breathe masks are bigger than a quarter mask, and depending on the size of your face, may fit like a half-mask, or as Aaron Collins joked in his review, a "3/8 mask", which might just tuck under the chin a bit.
    - These have a similar design to the Flo and Envo, but the flexible seal on them is a lot deeper and **may** provide a more consistent seal and be more comfortable for some people as a result. Some who have been disappointed with the Flo seal prefer Breathe's.
- There are two types of filters available for the Breathe masks, the "bioaerosol" and "particulate" filters, neither of which are rated to any official standards. Some folks on the Masks4All reddit were not impressed with the rigor of the company's testing.
    - Aaron Collins did a quantitative fit test with both types of filters in an OG Breathe and he got disappointingly low filtration efficiency for the bioaersol filters, like 80%, which is really not good enough.
        - For the "particulate" filters, he did get a 96% filtration efficiency which is an indication that his mask fits him pretty well and the higher level filter is okay. The lower level of filter is just kinda shit.
        - Quarter Mask Elastomeric Review - Flo,  Envo & Breathe

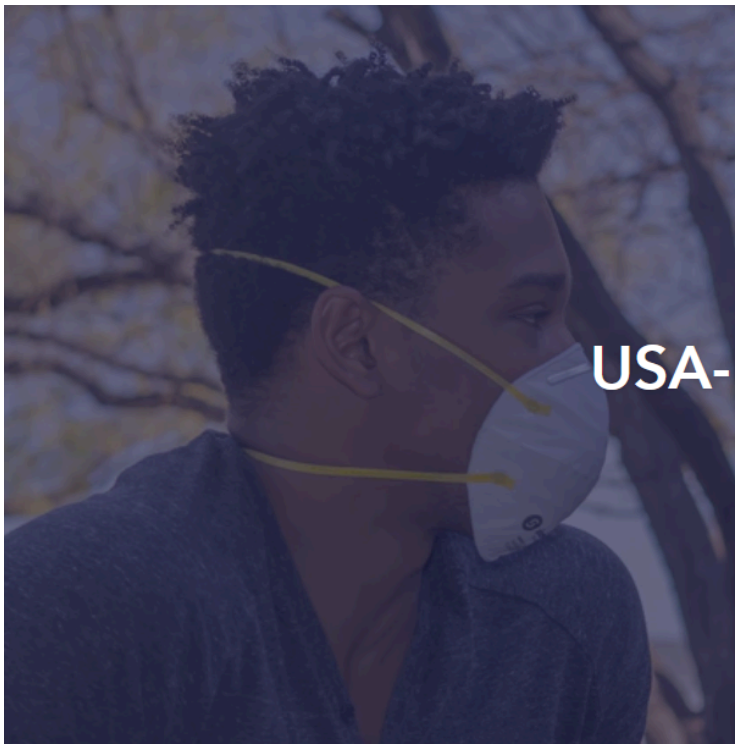
-

    - On the other hand, another popular fit testing guy on twitter was totally dissatisfied with the Breathe masks. They also got terrible filtration efficiency using the bioaerosol filter, 75-85%, which matches up with Aaron's results, but they did not even get the chance to test the higher level "particulate" filters.
        - They said that there was a defect in one of the 3D printed parts necessary to get a tight seal around the edge of the filter sheet, and in order to get the filter sheet sitting snugly for a quantitative fit test, they had to hot glue the mask together, which made it impossible to exchange in the “particulate” filter for testing, or indeed ever change the filter again.
        - 
Fit Test the Planet
@FitTestMyPlanet
FYI if the unit you get snaps into place correctly (mine didn’t until I hotglued the 3D printed part), you get 75-85% filtration assuming perfect fit. Not great either. A few people are landing in that range (5 to 6 FF on N100 scale). I usually label the masks as the harmonic mean of the first 12 exercises. Ultimately it landed around 5.3FF.
With elastomerics, fit factor is more individual than with disposables. My elasto excel dataset is really only useful for finding ceilings.
    - With Aaron and the other twitter fit tester having such different takes on these, and there being so few evidence-based reviews in general, I don't really have a solid conclusion. I'd say give the PrescientX Breathe masks a shot if you're in Canada and can afford it, but don't even bother with the bioaersosol filters, and I'd recommend doing a home fit test for sure.

- Breathe99 by Armbrust
-
- Not to be confused with the PrescientX Breathe masks is the Breathe99, available in the US.
    - Breathe 99 is a stealth quarter face elastomeric made by Armbrust, who also sell disposable masks made by themselves and a number of other US-based manufacturers. They also test the filtration efficiency of mask material for every disposable mask they can find on Amazon, and publish those results on their site.
    - Breathe99 costs $59 USD, and comes in a few colors and one size, which has headstraps.
    - The mask comes with five sets of filters, which are not officially rated to any standards, but the company has published extensive testing data that looks good to people more knowledgeable than me on Mask Reddit.
    - The issue with these is the fit. These don't fit a lot of people well. The same twitter fit tester who had to glue their PrescientX Breathe2 mask together, got absolutely shit results with the Breathe99
    - The trade off of a mask like this being so shallow and minimal and looking so "stealthy" as result, is that it simply can't fit most people well, because there's not enough flexible material to mold to a range of faces.
        - You can see in this comment from the twitter fit tester, that the worst FF they got with a GVS elipse (when it had literally had a leak) was still way better than the best scores they could get in the Breathe99, because it simply did not fit.


Fit Test the Planet @FitTe... · 14.08.23
Antwort an @flowermusickids @cross97se und 2 weitere
Yep. Left mask is ~100-10,000 times more protective than the right. Even the lowest full-range static score we've ever witnessed on Elipse (which was a complete leak on someone), is higher than the highest adversarial static score on Breathe99.
docs.google.com/spreadsheets/u...
4
12
33
1.657

    - I've seen some comments from other people who got this mask, initially thought it fit them well, and then did a home fit test and found out that it did NOT fit them.
- To be honest I'm not really surprised by these results in an elastomeric made by Armbrust. Part of the company's big claim to relevance is that they test many of the disposable masks sold on Amazon and share the results of whether the mask "passes", which in their book, only involves the filtration material meeting the claimed standard.
    - Armbrust DOES not consider fit when they test or talk about or rate disposable masks. They do not conduct fit tests.
    - As I have talked about extensively at this point, fit is everything, and I can see in the Armbrust testing videos that they are giving their "passing" scores to bifold earloop masks that are guaranteed to fit few people well enough to provide adequate protection in the one-way masking situation most of us find ourselves in, and I think that's misleading.
    - Why would they do this? Why would they ignore fit when they design and recommend masks? Because… they make and sell disposable masks that clearly have very low fit factors. Like, they can't even be bothered to make sure the models on their website are wearing masks that fit. See these HUGE GAPS:

- 
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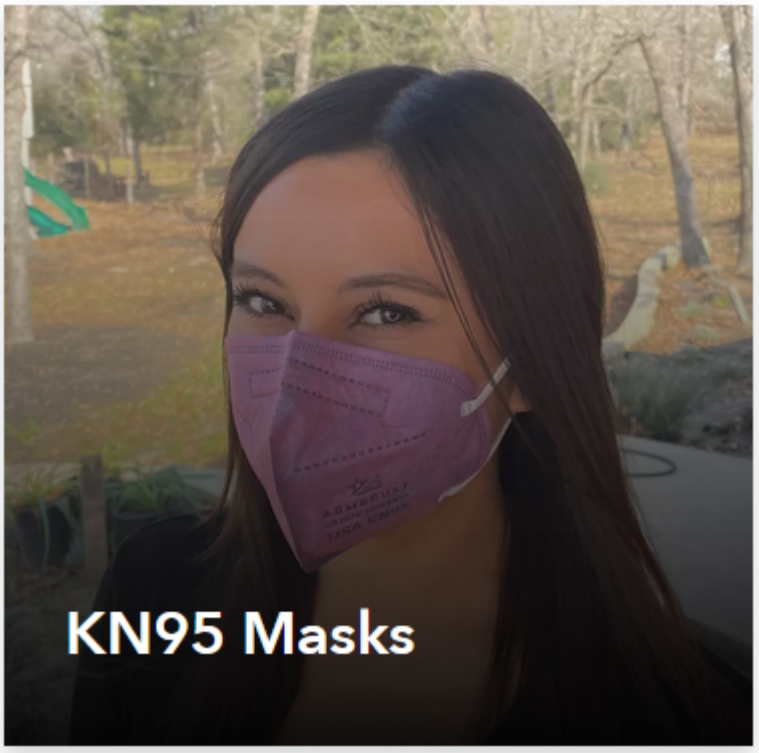


    - It's unserious! So yeah, I'm pretty comfortable NOT recommending the Breathe99, it's a lot of money to spend on something that probably won't fit you, from a company that I think represents themselves as a source of "objective" mask information while deemphasizing the role of fit in order to boost their own profits. I'm not impressed.
- ElastoMaskPro

- Okay we are FINALLY, almost done, and we are ending with a rare one, the ELASTOMASKPRO! (there is no non pro elastomask, that's just what's it's called)
    - So right off the bat I will see this is expensive, I have only seen one person review it, and I don't know anyone who has it, but it is officially rated as an N95 which is significant, and I respect the person who reviewed it, so we're talking about it.
    - The ElastoMaskPro is a half face respirator, which means it goes from the bridge of the nose to under the chin. As it was designed for healthcare workers, it has source

control, and unusual for boutique elastomerics, it has filter cartridges instead of sheets. The head straps are non adjustable and made of the same silicone as the main mask body.
        - ElastoMaskPro comes in two sizes, and includes two filter cartridges or "pucks" for $89.99.  A set of replacement pucks is $20 bucks.
        - Based on the shipping options on their site, it looks like they are limited to consumers in the US.
    - ElastomaskPro is manufactured by Reusable Respirators LLC, which is a subsidiary of ARA, which is apparently an employee-owned defense and aerospace research company. A lot to unpack there!

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    - This was reviewed by Gerard Hughes, who is one of the more accessible fit testing guys out there. I only know about it because of him. Gerard liked the Elastomask pro and found it comfortable and very breathable, but had some reservations about the non-replaceable straps.
        - https://www.reddit.com/r/Masks4All/comments/z33lwd/portacount_testing_the_silicone_unibody/
    - Ultimately, I would probably only spring for one of these if I had tons of money to blow and none of the more common boutique elastomerics worked for me.
        - However, if you do have tons of cash to blow on trying endless elastomerics, might I recommend instead donating money or high quality disposable respirators to a local mask bloc?
        - As much as one super effective elastomeric can help you, nothing beats having a lot of people in your community wearing pretty good masks, and helping people is cool!

## Flo Review

I did not write it yet :,-)